

## We Claim:

1. A method of electronic commerce, comprising establishing a network-based on-line system for purchase and sale of an option or futures contract to acquire tickets and/or travel accommodation for a contingent event, which contract is exercisable upon the occurrence of the contingent event.
2. A system for allowing a user to purchase an option or futures contract for a ticket to a contingent event, comprising a processor operative with a program to
  - (a) Identify tickets for a contingent event;
  - (b) Enter bids for an option or futures contract to purchase the tickets upon occurrence of the contingent event; and
  - (c) rank the bids.
3. A system of claim 2, wherein the contingent event is a participant-event.
4. A system of claim 3, wherein the participant-event is a team-round-game.
5. A system for allowing a user to bid on an option to purchase a ticket to a contingent event, comprising:
  - a database having stored therein an option or futures record having a team field representative of a participant being a candidate for participation in the contingent event, an event field representative of the sporting event, and a value field representative of a value of a minimum winning bid to purchase an option or future for a ticket for the sporting event on the occurrence of a specified participant qualifying to participate in the contingent event; and
  - a server, in connection with said database, and capable of processing a bid representative of a request to purchase the option or future, and being capable of processing said bid and said option or futures record to adjust the minimum winning bid value and to allocate an option or futures contract to the winning bid.
6. A system for allowing a remote user to purchase, over a distributed computer network, an option or futures contract for a ticket to a contingent event, which system comprises a host server operative with a program including

- (i) an event database connected in communication with said host server, said database including ticket identifiers each representative of a ticket for a contingent participant-event,
- (ii) an option or futures bid database in communication with said host server, said option or futures bid database including allocation fields representative of an option or futures bid for each of said tickets, and
- (iii) an interface manager implemented on said server and in communication with said databases;

wherein said interface manager processes option or futures bids from remote users to determine whether to accept the option or futures bid and to update the allocation field.

7. A system of claim 6, wherein the participant-event identifiers include team-round-game identifiers.

8. A system of claim 6, wherein the participant-event identifiers include athlete-game identifiers.

9. A system of claim 6, wherein the participant-event identifiers include entertainer-event identifiers.

10. A system for allowing a user to purchase an option or futures contract for goods or services related to a contingent ticketed event, comprising a processor operative with a program to

- (a) Identify goods or services related to a contingent ticketed event;
- (b) Enter bids for an option or futures contract to purchase the goods or services; and
- (c) rank the bids.

11. A system of claim 10, wherein the contingent ticketed event is the presence of a team in a sports event.

an athlete in a sporting event.

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